



# RMC

Rural Maryland Council



## Quarterly Newsletter



*Photo: From left, Charlotte Davis (RMC Executive Director), RMC Chair John Hartline (Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland) presenting Senator Adelaide Eckardt with the Rural Champion Award during the Rural Maryland Council's Annual meeting held on December 1, 2022, alongside Scott Warner (Mid-Shore Regional Council) and Kimberly Kratovil (United States Senator Ben Cardin's Office).*

## Message from the Chair

Dear {First Name},



*Photo: Attendees at the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Roundtable at the*

This past Fall, the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland and the Rural Maryland Council have been hosting Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Roundtables. A total of three hybrid roundtable discussions were held to identify strategies for expanding non-emergency medical transportation in Eastern, Western, and Central Maryland with a final white paper planned for distribution in December. The sessions were held at the Delmarva Community Services building in Cambridge, Maryland on September 29th, the second at Rocky Gap Resort in Cumberland, Maryland on October 25th, and our last roundtable was held on November 17, 2022, at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis, Maryland. View a recording of the meetings [here](#).

**Save the Date!** A Broadband Symposium is planned to be held in early May. This event will allow attendees to connect with other stakeholders interested in broadband access and discuss ways to maximize available funding for rural broadband initiatives. Enjoy anticipated breakout sessions on the latest broadband technologies, funding for broadband infrastructure projects, making your community attractive to providers, and using public-private partnerships for broadband development. Stay tuned for more details!



*Photo: John Hartline (Executive Director for Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland ) and Susan O'Neill (RMC Chair, Executive Director for Upper Shore Regional Council) at the RMC Annual meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at the Kent Island Resort in Stevensville, Maryland.*

The Rural Maryland Council's Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at the Kent Island Resort in Stevensville, Maryland. As Marylanders focus on the coming year one Maryland organization, the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), ruminates on its many successes in the past year and rings in the New Year with new leadership to create real lasting change in rural Maryland. This year, the RMC elected Susan O'Neill, Executive Director of the Upper Shore Regional Council (USRC) of Chestertown to be the new RMC chair. Active since 2018, O'Neill most recently served as RMC's Chair of the Rural Maryland Prosperity Fund (RMPIF). Under O'Neill's leadership, RMPIF received historic funding of \$6,150,000 in the Fiscal Year 2022 State's Operating Budget to support rural grant projects in entrepreneurship development, health care organizations, and regional infrastructure. "Susan brings a wealth of knowledge in not only rural issues but more importantly on how to plan and execute creative solutions to those challenges," says Charlotte Davis, RMC Executive Director. "Every day she works with rural leaders and organizations to create stronger, more resilient communities. Her commitment to creating impact and her ability to engage community partners will service RMC well," she adds. The meeting also featured the 2022 Maryland Rural Impact Awards featuring important rural advocates and leaders who were bestowed awards, including the:

- **Rural Legacy Award** to Governor Larry Hogan, recognizing his lasting impact in rural Maryland and someone who has gone above and beyond. Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Joseph Bartenfelder accepted the award on Governor Hogan's behalf.
- **Rural Community Volunteer** to Selena Wilkes of Williamsport, MD, for exemplary leadership and dedication in volunteer achievement beyond her professional duties.
- **Outstanding Rural Community Development** to The Benedictine School of Ridgley, MD, recognizing achievement that improves the quality of life in at least one rural community.
- **Outstanding Rural Economic Development** to Western Maryland Works of LaVale, MD, recognizing its work to attract, retain or create jobs in at least one rural community.
- **Rural Leadership Award** to Senator Addie Eckardt, District 37, Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, & Wicomico Counties, recognizing the senator's long-term service not only to RMC but to all communities across the state.

- **Rural Champion Award** to Senator Michael Jackson, District 27 Calvert, Charles & Prince George's Counties, recognizing outstanding leadership and public service in promoting legislation and

John Hartline, RMC's Immediate Past Chair and Executive Director of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland of Hughesville, was appointed to the RMC Board in 2014 and was elected as Chair in 2020. Under Hartline's leadership, RMC's impact on rural communities continued to gain momentum despite pandemic restrictions on public meetings. "During the pandemic, we did things like conducting virtual legislative lunches and we even had a very successful virtual Rural Maryland Day on Zoom where our attendance rivaled that of our previous in-person events," says Hartline. "I wish Susan the best in her new position, and look forward to working with her in her new role," he adds.

We would like to thank John Hartline for serving as the RMC Chair for the past two years and we wish him the best of luck in the future. As always, we continuously strive to collaborate among federal, state, and local government, for-profit, nonprofit, and grassroots organizations. Please feel free to contact us at (410) 841-5772 or [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov). We want to hear your thoughts and concerns about ways to improve the quality of life for all of rural Maryland.

Sincerely,



Susan O'Neill  
Chair

## Message from the Executive Director



*Photo: From left, Senate President Bill Ferguson, Santo Grande (President, Delmarva Community Services), and Charlotte Davis (Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council) at the Welcome Breakfast for Legislators at the Maryland Inn held on Friday, January 13, 2023.*

The 2023 Legislative Session began on Wednesday, January 11, 2023. We held a Welcome Breakfast for Legislators on Friday, January 13, 2023, at the Maryland Inn in Annapolis, Maryland. The breakfast provided an opportunity for legislators to meet with RMC members across the State to exchange ideas and information. Our Quarterly Executive Board meeting and Legislative Luncheon was held on Friday, January 27, 2023, at the Calvert House in Annapolis, Maryland. This meeting featured Mr. Kevin Atticks, Maryland Secretary of Agriculture as the special guest speaker and updates were shared on the RMC committees. Rural Maryland Day was held virtually on Thursday, February 9, 2023, and offered an opportunity for legislators to meet with rural constituents and

## Events

### [Health Committee Meeting](#)

2/22/2023  
10 am - 11 am

### [Rural Housing Working Committee Meeting](#)

2/23/2023  
11 am - 12 pm

### [Broadband Symposium Planning Committee Meeting](#)

2/27/2023  
1 pm - 2 pm

### [RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

1/27/2023  
2 pm - 3 pm

### [Rural Maryland Foundation Meeting](#)

3/2/2023  
10 am - 12 pm

### [RMC Legislative Committee Meeting](#)

3/6/2023  
2 pm - 3 pm

### [RMC Executive Committee Meeting](#)

3/17/2023  
12 pm - 2 pm

### [RMPF Committee Meeting](#)

3/21/2023  
10 am - 12 pm

stakeholders to discuss opportunities and initiatives in rural Maryland communities. In recognition of Maryland farmers, watermen, and rural communities, the Rural Maryland Council is hosting a Grab & Go lunch on Maryland Day Friday, March 24, 2023, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis, Maryland. This event is sponsored by the [Maryland Agriculture Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation](#), [Maryland Broadband Cooperative](#), [Horizon Farm Credit](#), [Maryland Department of Agriculture](#), [Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission](#), the [Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland](#), and the [Maryland Heritage Areas Authority](#). The bag lunch will come from Caroline County's Chesapeake Culinary Center and will include locally produced foods. Register to attend [here](#).

[Maryland Day](#)  
3/24/2023  
1:30 am - 1 pm

The RMC Legislative Committee is meeting biweekly on Mondays during the session to discuss testimony, potential legislation, and special session events. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact the RMC at 401-841-5772 or [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

The Grow and Fortify Value-Added Agriculture Summit was held on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville, Maryland. The summit supported Maryland's value-added agriculture producers, agritourism operations, and small food businesses. There were breakout sessions, the [Rural Maryland Council](#), [Horizon Farm Credit](#), and the [Chesapeake Ag Innovation Center](#) were co-sponsors of this event.

The Partners for Rural America Conference was held on November 1-2, 2022 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference featured the PRA annual meeting and election of 2023 PRA officers as well as educational tours and guest speakers.



*Photo: Attendees at the Power2Go Electric Vehicle Symposium held on Monday, February 13, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, Maryland.*

The [Rural Maryland Council](#), [Beach to Bay Heritage Areas](#), [Choptank Communications](#), [Preservation Maryland](#), and the [Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition](#) hosted a Power2Go: Destination Marketing- A Symposium to Increase Equity and Accessibility of Historical, Cultural, and Recreational Destinations on Monday, February 13, 2023, at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, Maryland. At this free symposium, attendees were able to connect with colleagues across rural Maryland to learn about the challenge of Electric Vehicles (EV) in rural Maryland, understand the National Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure priorities, and how to make Maryland's Heritage, Cultural, and Recreational Destinations EV accessible by learning about financing opportunities. View the PowerPoint presentations and the EV Toolkit information from the meeting [here](#).

If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov) or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Davis  
Executive Director

## Committee Updates



### RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee will meet on Thursday, March 9, 2023, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom.

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov)



### RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet on Monday, February 27, 2023, 2 pm- 3 pm via zoom.

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

## RMC In the News

[Arts Council gearing up for Autumn Glory](#)  
10/7/2022

[Celebrating National Rural Health Day](#)  
11/17/2022

[Dunkirk college student to intern with Mid-Shore Pro Bono](#)  
November 23, 2022

[Benedictine receives award for Outstanding Rural Community Development](#)  
December 21, 2022

[Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act Passed in Congress](#)  
December 27, 2022

[MAGIC uses \\$15,000 RMC grant to reimagine cybersecurity careers in rural communities](#)  
January 20, 2023

[Cardin addresses new Southern Maryland National Heritage Area](#)  
January 30, 2023

## Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

### Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Take the Next Step: Tractor College Workshop](#) - February - March 2023 - Maryland Soybean Board

### Awards and Grants

- [Fiscal Year 2023 USDA Distance Learning and](#)

## Rural Maryland Foundation



Rural Maryland  
Foundation

The Rural Maryland

### Programs and More

- [Telehealth Village Online Education](#) - Telehealth Village
- [Projects in Maryland's Rural Regions Receive Funding Article](#) - State of Maryland

Email: [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) to share links to your events and programs.

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## COVID-19 Resources

The links below are for general and specific rural COVID-19 information. The following resources can also be found on our regularly updated [website](#).

- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Coronavirus Resources for Maryland](#) - Maryland Department of Health
- [Jobs that Build Employer Funding](#) - Maryland Department of Labor
- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute
- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [COVID-19 Information for SAMHSA Discretionary Grant Recipients](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [COVID-19 Funding for Minority, Rural, and Socially Vulnerable Communities](#) - Office of Minority Health

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## 2023 Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center Summit

A poster for the 2023 MATRC Summit. It features a person in a white lab coat holding a tablet with a globe and various icons. The text "2023 MATRC SUMMIT" is prominently displayed. To the right, the title "TELEHEALTH EQUITY:" is followed by the subtitle "Is the 'Solution' for Addressing Inequities in Health Quality and Access Now Exacerbating those Same Issues?". Below this, the dates "March 15-17, 2023" and "Hybrid Event" are listed, along with the Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center logo.

**TELEHEALTH EQUITY:**  
Is the "Solution" for Addressing Inequities in Health Quality and Access Now Exacerbating those Same Issues?

March 15-17, 2023  
Hybrid Event

Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center

The Mid-Atlantic Telehealth Resource Center's 2023 Summit "Telehealth Equity: Is the "Solution" for Addressing Inequities in Health Quality and Access Now Exacerbating those Same Issues?" will be held on March 15- 17, 2023 at the Hilton Norfolk The Main Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia as a hybrid event. The summit will examine the technology and lessons learned that contribute to making telehealth either a facilitator, enabler, or barrier for different populations. Engage with fellow telehealth colleagues to expand your knowledge, discover new perspectives, develop relationships, and envision the future of telehealth. Register to attend the summit [here](#).

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## MAERDAF Spotlight - Wood energy fuel supply analysis underway in Maryland

The Western Maryland Conservation and Development Council and the Maryland Clean Energy Center have joined forces to produce a wood energy fuel supply chain analysis to evaluate thermal wood energy development.

Funded by the Rural Maryland Council through the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) the analysis will provide a long-term overview to assess the sustainability of wood energy in Maryland. This report will identify where the wood can be sourced from, even in an emergency, and how much wood is needed to meet facility requirements. Additionally, the research will provide five-, ten-, and fifteen-year predictions for forest growth based on low, medium, and high investments in wood energy.

The Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) expects to release the project [RFP](#), and the analysis report will be published in June of 2023. For more information visit [www.mdcleanenergy.org/biomass-maryland](http://www.mdcleanenergy.org/biomass-maryland).

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## Special Feature - Rural Maryland Council Receives Maryland Apprenticeship Ambassador Award



On November 17, 2022, the Rural Maryland Council had the pleasure of receiving the Maryland Apprenticeship Ambassador Award for recognition of leadership as an Apprenticeship Ambassador and commitment to raising awareness of Registered Apprenticeships and advocating for increased use of Registered Apprenticeship among Maryland's employers and job seekers.

The Maryland Apprenticeship Ambassador Program is an incentive program that raises awareness about registered apprenticeships and encourages job seekers and businesses to engage in apprenticeship opportunities. For the organization or individual commitment, apprenticeship ambassadors receive special recognition from the Maryland Department of Labor, receive the latest in apprenticeship news and emerging workforce trends, and get valuable media exposure. Learn more about the Maryland Apprenticeship Ambassador Program [here](#).

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Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.

Rural Maryland Council | 410-841-5772 | [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) | <http://www.rural.maryland.gov/>  
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